

## COMPARATIVE POLITICS FIELD SEMINAR

PSC 350/550

Spring 2018

Tuesday 11:00-13:55 Harkness 329

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### OVERVIEW

PSC 350/550 is the required field seminar for the comparative politics field of the Ph.D. program. Comparative politics seeks to develop and test theories that can be used to explain political events and patterns across political systems, largely, but not exclusively, nation-states. In American political science this has largely come to mean description and explanation of politics in countries outside the United States. This course is designed to introduce students to classic and contemporary works across a range of subfields of comparative politics, including: democracy, dictatorship, and development, revolutions and violence, culture and social movements, parties and electoral systems, representation and accountability, institutions of governance, and political economy. It will also introduce various methodological approaches and issues in the comparative field, including research design and case selection. Undergraduates will be permitted to enroll only with consent of the instructors.

### REQUIREMENTS

This class is a discussion seminar, not a lecture course. It is essential that students be prepared to discuss ALL of the readings each and every class. Many of the works that we will read are a blend of theory, methods, and substantive empirical analysis, which are aimed at uncovering systematic patterns or solving puzzles. Class participants should thus be prepared to describe and compare the week's required readings from two points of view:

(1) What are the principal **substantive** arguments being made? What phenomena are the targets of explanation? Are they clearly identified and defined? Are they defined at the level of individuals, groups, institutions, states, or other sorts of entities? What variables are proposed to explain them? At what level are these variables? What causal mechanisms are proposed as linkages?

(2) What **methodological** approach is taken to enhance the credibility of those arguments and how well does it succeed? What kinds of empirical implications of the theory are examined? For example, over-time changes or corresponding cross-national levels of variables at a single point in time? Observation or experiment? Evidence of behavioral connections? How are the important variables measured--quantitative/qualitative approaches? What care is taken to specify relationships between multiple variables? How are cases selected?

Student responsibilities include leading discussion of one of the readings in each seminar, drawing the class into describing and comparing the readings substantively and methodologically. (There will be some flexibility about this depending on the size of the class and the readings for the week.) A one-two page handout of notes should be provided. Grades will be based on these presentations and general class discussion (33%); the take-home “midterm,” (33%); and a take-home “final” (33%), covering the 2nd half of the course.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty). Be prepared to sign the Honor pledge on all exams and papers.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

You may want to purchase the books marked with a \*; if you do not already have them. They are all paperbacks. As many of these are somewhat older works, you should be able to get them less expensively used through Amazon or other internet sites. (But we also ordered them through the bookstore, if you wish/need to get them that way.) Most articles are available through the Voyager electronic journals. Other works will be available on-line through the syllabus on Blackboard, or in a box in the Political Science Lounge, Harkness 314. Please be sure to return these quickly, so that others can read them

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

January 23. Syllabus. – Sign up for presentations AND be prepared to discuss:

### **Democracy, Dictatorship and Development I**

Dahl, Robert. *Polyarchy*, 1971, 1-16, 33-47.

Lipset, Seymour Martin. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy,” *APSR*, March, 1959.

\*Przeworski, Adam, et al. *Development and Democracy*, Cambridge 2000, Ch. 1- 2.

Graham, Benjamin, et al. “Safeguarding Democracy: Powersharing and Democratic Survival.” *APSR*. 2017.

January 30     **Democracy, Dictatorship and Development II**

Moore, Barrington. *Social Origins of Dictatorship & Dem.* Beacon 1968, Ch. 1, 7, 9.

Acemoglu & Robinson, *Economic Origins Dictatorship & Democracy* 2006, Ch. 1, 2, 6.

Boix, “Democracy, Development and the international system.” *APSR* 2011 809-828.

February 6     **Authoritarianism**

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. *Competitive authoritarianism: Hybrid regimes after the cold war*. Cambridge University Press, 2010. Chs. 1,2,5.

Boix, Carles and Milan Svobik. “The Foundations of Limited Authoritarian Government: Institutions, Commitment, and Power-Sharing in Dictatorships.” *JOP*. April 2013.

Gandhi, Jennifer. *Political Institutions Under Dictatorship*. Cambridge 2008. Ch. 1, 3, 5  
\*Hyde, Susan. *The Pseudo-Democrats Dilemma: Why Election Monitoring Became An International Norm*. Cornell 2011. Chapters 1-4.

### February 13 **Research Design and Comparative Politics**

Lieberman, Evan, "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *APSR* (August 2005) 99 (3): 435-452.  
Pierson, Paul "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence and the Study of Politics, *American Political Science Review*, 94 (2):251-268 (June 2000.)  
\*Dunning, Thad. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge 2012. In ch 1 section 1.5 (27-36); Part 1, ch 2-4; Part IV ch 11.  
Bates, et al. *Analytic Narratives*. Intro and Ch by Bates.

### February 20 **The State, Conflict, and Order**

North, Douglass C., John Joseph Wallis, and Barry R. Weingast. *Violence and social orders: A conceptual framework for interpreting recorded human history*. Cambridge University Press, 2009. Chs. 1,2,6.  
Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions*. 1979, ch 1,3,4 (3-42, 112-160, 161-171.)  
Geddes, Barbara. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," in *Paradigms and Sand Castles* 2003, ch3  
Tilly, Charles, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 169-191.

### February 27 **Political Economy of Developing Societies**

\*Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*. Updated/revised 2014 edition.  
Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. "The Comparative Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation" *American Economic Review* (2001) 91 (5), 1369 – 1401.  
\*Przeworski, Adam, et al. *Development and Democracy*, Cambridge 2000, Ch. 3-4.  
Albertus, Michael and Victor Menaldo. "If You're Against Them You're With Us: The Effect of Expropriation on Autocratic Survival." 2012. *Comparative Political Studies* 45(8) 973-1003.

March 6 **MIDTERM A take-home midterm will be arranged for this week. AND**

### March 6 **Institutions I**

\* Ostrom, Eleanor. *Governing the Commons*. Cambridge 1990. Ch. 1, 3, 5 (skim ch. 2).  
Greif, Avner, and David Laitin, "A Theory of Endogenous Institutional Change," *APSR* 98, No. 4 (November 2004): 633-652.  
Weingast, Barry. 1997. "The Political Foundations of Democracy and the Rule of Law." *American Political Science Review* (June 1997) 91: 245-63.

March 13      **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

March 20      **Institutions II**

Shugart and Carey. *Presidents and Assemblies*. Cambridge 1992. Ch 1-3, 7,8.  
Tsebelis, George, “Decision-Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in  
Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartyism” in *BJPS*  
1997: 289-325 .  
Elkins and Ginsburg. *Endurance of National Constitutions*. Cambridge 2009. Chs 1,4,5,6  
Helmke *Institutions on the Edge: Inter-branch Crises in Latin America*. Chs 1,3,4,6

March 27      **Parties, Elections and Election Rules**

Downs, Anthony. *Economic Theory of Democracy*, 1957, Ch. 7-8.  
Boix, Carles. “Setting the Rules...” *APSR*, Sept 1999  
\*Cox, Gary. *Making Votes Count*, Cambridge 1997, Ch. 1-4, 7-8, 10,11, 12.  
Iverson, Torben and David Soskice. “Electoral Institutions and Politics of Coalitions.  
*APSR* 2006 165-182.

**SELECTIONS to be announced.**

April 3        **Voters, Citizens and Clients**

\*Duch, Raymond and Randolph Stevenson, *The Economic Vote*. 2008, Ch. 1, 3, 9 (7).  
Stokes, Susan. “Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with  
Evidence from Argentina.” *APSR* 99(3):315-325, August, 2005.  
Stokes and Dunning. *Brokers, Voters and Clientelism*. Cambridge 2013.  
Chs. 1,7,8.  
Kitschelt and Kselman “Eco Dev & Linkage” *CPS* 2013

April 10      **Representation and Accountability**

\*Powell, *Ideological Congruence: Achieved and Astray*, 2017, Selections TBD.  
Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism*, 1982, Ch. 1,5, 8, 10.  
Achen, Christopher and Larry Bartels. *Democracy For Realists\**. 2016.  
Princeton University Press.

April 17      **Violence, Ethnicity and Cleavages**

\*Kalyvaas, Stathis. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge 2006, Ch. Intro, 4, 5,  
7, 9, 10, Conclusion.  
Fearon, James and David Laitin, D. “Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War,” *APSR* (97)  
Feb 2003, 75-90.  
Rogowski, Ronald. *Commerce & Coalitions*, 1989, Ch.1 (or 1987 *APSR* article)

Bhavnani, Rikhil R. and Lacina, Bethany. *The Effects of Weather-Induced Migration of Sons of the Soil Riots in India*. 2015.

April 24      **Culture, Social Movements, and Protest**

Posner, Daniel. "Political Salience of Cultural Difference," *APSR*, Nov. 2004.  
Chandra, Kanchan. Ed., *Constructing Social Identity*. Oxford 2012. ch. 2-4, 8?  
Aytaç, S. Erdem, Luis Schiumerini, and Susan Stokes. 2017. "Why Do People Join Backlash Protests? Lessons from Turkey." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.  
\*Tarrow, Sidney. *Power in Movement*, Cambridge 2011, selections?

**SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

May 1 **Doing Comparative Politics.**

Selected conference papers from *In the Field* conference, May 2017, TBD.  
**also TAKE-HOME "FINAL" covering 2nd half of course. (Details to be negotiated)**